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Introduction of amending Bill to the Madras Estates Land Act.

*755-B Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that the landholders in a majority of cases are tyrannizing over ryots by not allowing them to freely graze their cattle or to get fuel and materials for fencing and for agricultural implements in the village forest;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to introduce an amendment to the Madras Estates Land Act clearly conferring the above rights in the village forest on the ryots by statutes instead of leaving them to chances of litigation; and

(*c*) when the amending Bill to the Madras Estates Land Act is likely to be introduced by the Government into the Council?

A.—(*a*) The Government are not aware that the fact is as suggested by the hon. Member.

(*b*) There is no such proposal before the Government at present.

(*c*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 755-A. The Government are unable to say anything further at present.

Report of the Committee on the Estates Land Act.

*755-C Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Estates Land Act Committee has sent its report; if so, when;

(*b*) when the report was referred to the Advocate-General for scrutiny;

(*c*) whether he has returned the same after scrutiny; if so, when;

(*d*) why the introduction of this Bill has been delayed so long; and

(*e*) when the Bill will be introduced?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Committee did not submit any report to Government. A sub-committee with the Advocate-General as President was appointed to draft a Bill to be submitted for the consideration of Government. This draft was completed on 19th May 1928.

(*d*) & (*e*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of question No. 755-A.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know, Sir, when this committee was first appointed?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"It was a long time ago. I must ask for notice of that question."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"May I know why the Board of Revenue have delayed the matter so long? The report was sent to them on 19th May."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"They have not delayed it. It was sent to them in July. The drafting of the Bill was completed on 19th May 1928. After consideration by the Government it was sent to the Board of Revenue in July. That information is given in a subsequent answer."

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Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" May I ask whether the Bill will come before this House in the next session ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" We hope to come to a conclusion by the end of next month ; we will then have to send the Bill to the Government of India and if it comes back in time, it will be ready."

Consideration of the report of the Malabar Tenancy Committee.

*755 D Q.—Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the consideration of the report and the Bill submitted by the Malabar Tenancy Committee referred to in the answer to question No. 210 made on the 6th September 1928 has been completed and if so with what result ;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to introduce any Bill to solve the tenancy problem in Malabar in the immediate future and if so, when ;

(*c*) whether the Government have applied for or obtained the sanction of the Government of India for introducing any such Bill ;

(*d*) what action the Government have taken so far on the report and the Bill submitted by the Malabar Tenancy Committee ;

(*e*) whether the Government are aware that the report and the Bill submitted by the said Committee have been condemned by representative tenants and the tenants' association in Malabar as exceedingly one-sided and ruinous to the tenantry of Malabar ; and

(*f*) whether the Government Bill is to be on the lines similar to the one drafted by the Malabar Tenancy Committee ; if not what are the material changes it proposes to make in that Bill ?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*f*) A translation in Malayalam of the summary of recommendations of the Committee and the draft Bill prepared by it has been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the 2nd October 1928 and in the *Malabar District Gazette.* The Collector of Malabar has distributed in Malabar copies of the summary of recommendations and the Bill. It is also proposed to hold a conference with representatives of the tenants and janmis at an early date. Thereafter the Government will come to a decision as to the provisions of the Bill which they will be prepared to introduce in this Council on the subject after obtaining the sanction of the Government of India.

The Government are aware that the draft Bill prepared by the Committee has been adversely criticised.

Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—" May I know whether the Bill and the report submitted by the Tenancy Committee have been considered by the Government at all ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" We have considered them ; only we have not come to any conclusion on them."

Mr. K. P. Raman Menon :—" It is stated that a conference with representatives of tenants and janmis would be held at an early date. May I know approximately what that early date will be ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I should hope in the month of December ; if not, in the month of January."